

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 COME-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06

OES-06 CAB-05 CIEP-02 FAA-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-02 /074 W

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R 271940Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6512

DOD WASHDC

USSOUTHCOM CZ

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 4914

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, EAIR, ETRA

SUBJ: OMEGA STATION GOLFO NUEVO ARGENTINA

1. THE NEW OMEGA STATION GOLFO NUEVO ARGENTINA WAS
INAUGURATED AT AN "ON-SITE" CEREMONY AT 1030 HRS.
21 JUL 1976. THE OMEGA STATION BECAME OPERATIONAL
UNDER THE HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICE OF THE ARGENTINE NAVY.

2. BACKGROUND. OMEGA IS A VERY LOW FREQUENCY (VLF)
RADIO NAVIGATION SYSTEM OPERATING IN THE INTERNATIONALLY
ALLOCATED FREQUENCIES OF 10 TO 14 KHZ. IT IS CAPABLE OF
PROVIDING ALL WEATHER NAVIGATIONAL SERVICE THROUGHOUT
THE WORLD WITH A TRANSMITTING COMPLEX OF NINE STATIONS.
THE SYSTEM IS USABLE FOR NAVIGATION PURPOSES BY SHIPS,
AIRCRAFT AND LAND VEHICLES. IN ADDITION, SINCE TRANS-
MISSIONS ARE CONTROLLED BY ATOMIC FREQUENCY STANDARDS,
THE SIGNALS CAN BE USEFUL FOR PRECISE RATING OF LESS
ACCURATE FREQUENCY STANDARDS, FOR ASTRONOMICAL
MEASUREMENTS AND FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE USE IN WORLD-
WIDE TIME DISSEMINATION. EIGHT STATIONS IN THE OMEGA
SYSTEM ARE LOCATED IN NORWAY, LIBERIA, HAWAII, NORTH
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DAKOTA, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, LA REUNION AND ARGENTINA.

TRINIDAD HAS AN R/O STATION WHICH WILL BE CLOSED SHORTLY. A NINTH STATION IS PROGRAMMED FOR THE MID SOUTH PACIFIC, HOWEVER, NO GEOGRAPHIC SITE HAS BEEN YET SELECTED. OMBEGA STATION ARGENTINA IS ONE OF THE FEW STATIONS FULLY OPERATED AND MAINTAINED BY THE HOST COUNTRY WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT FROM THE US COAST GUARD. THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE WAS FULLY FUNDED BY THE US, BUT WAS COMPLETED BY ARGENTINE CONTRACTORS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE ARGENTINE NAVY BUREAU OF ELECTRONICS. THE SCOPE AND COMPLEXITY OF THE PROJECT CAUSED COMPLICATIONS AND DELAYS AS THE ARGENTINE CONTRACTORS DID NOT HAVE THE REQUIRED BACKGROUND OR EXPERIENCE. CERTAIN DEFFICULTIES, ESPECIALLY IN THE AREAS OF SUPPORTING COMMUNICATIONS, LOGISTICS AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL UNDER HIRE CONTINUE.

THE US EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES HAS BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN ALL PHASES OF OMEGA, THROUGH THE OFFICES OF THE NAVY SECTION, UNITED STATES MILITARY GROUP. PROGRESS HAS BEEN MONITORED AND DAY TO DAY ASSITANCE AND ADVICE IN THE PROBLEM AREAS IS SOUGHT BY THE ARGENTINE NAVY AND IS PROVIDED. THIS ASSISTANCE EFFORT, ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT DIMINISHED, CONTINUES.

3. FUTURE PROSPECTS. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT/ARGENTINE NAVY DID NOT FULLY REALIZE THE EXTENT OF FUNDING SUPPORT REQUIRED. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT ADDITIONAL FUNDING SUPPORT FOR OMEGA WILL BE REQUESTED FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND PERSONNEL COSTS.

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